

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, DeLoach, Groschen, Hesse, McCune: Town Board Liaison: Kermes; Clerk: Short; Public Works Director: Reed; Guest: Tom Chovan, Republic Services.

Absent: Pehrson with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): McCune moved approval of the agenda with the following amendment: 9) On Line Sewer and Water Payments. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: DeLoach moved approval of the July 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: Hesse moved approval of the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Receive Monthly Sewer & Water Report; 4B) Receive EDAB Meeting Minutes; 4C) Receive Republic Services Monthly Service Report. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

The list of complaints about brown/rusty looking water was discussed. It was noted that the complaints seem to focus around certain dates. In the north system the water had a large amount of sediment. This occurs any time there is a shift in the direction that the water flows in the mains. The shift stirs up the sediment. The issue is why more sediment is appearing now. The water towers were cleaned once each year. Public Works will increase the number of cleanings per year which may help alleviate the problem. A question was asked if there is a difference between brown or yellow water. The difference is perception.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: **Storm Water Management:** The Town Board approved a Stormwater Management Ordinance which sets the minimum requirements for stormwater management that will diminish threats to public health, safety, public and private property and natural resources of the Township by establishing performance standards. **TIF Projects:** The EDAB reviewed a list of projects proposed to be partially funded with TIF. Some of these projects include utility projects. **Mission Statement:** The Town Board has been working on a mission statement with both staff and a consultant. This mission statement will be provided to the commissions for their

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2016

information and to see if it would fit in with the mission of the commissions. **On Line Utility Payments:** Information will be presented on the Town's website regarding a new program where utility customers may pay their utility bills on line. **Variance Approval:** The Town Board approved a variance for Wilbert's Plastic to add a noise absorbing wall for a second chiller which is used in their manufacturing process.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director reviewed the Public Works Department Activity for July 2016. **Treatment Plant #1:** The rehabilitation work has been completed and the plant operational testing is continuing. Staff is working with the chemical supplier regarding increasing chemical feed. Initially the plant will only run during the day during work hours. **Water Supply Plan:** The Public Works Director and Engineer are working on the Water Supply Plan which is due by the end of the year. **Taylor Avenue Culvert Replacement:** Working on it now. The Contractor and Town Engineer are monitoring the ditch levels. **Lift Station #3:** The Engineer and Town Attorney are working on clarifying ownership of the easement. Until that is resolved the design portion of the project will not move ahead. **Ramsey County Projects Within the Township: Portland Avenue:** Portland Avenue reclaim and overlay project is scheduled for 2016. The reclaiming of Portland Avenue between Buffalo Street and Short Street has been completed. Edge mill and overlay of Eagle Street from East Bald Eagle to Park Street will be completed in August. This is a recent addition to the Ramsey County's project list, due to a delay in another proposed project.

REPUBLIC SERVICES – CONTRACT RENEWAL DISCUSSION: The Clerk noted that at the last Utility Commission Tom Chovan, Republic Services stated that they would like to renew their contract. He reported that new rates will be proposed. He noted that there is a tax on Township rates that goes to the County to subsidize refuse derived fuel operation. After discussion with Tom Chovan it was the consensus that if Republic is competitive, provides good service and the residents are getting a good value that they would recommend to stay with Republic. It was the consensus at the last meeting that the contract should be take-all and not al-la-cart. A request was made to see a proposal to cover rates for one year; 2 years and 3 years.

Tom Chovan, Republic Services reviewed a comparison of services for waste and recycling for seven surrounding communities. He noted that you cannot compare the customer cost for other communities with the Township because the charges for various services vary. He noted that the seven communities which were compared with the Township all charged for yard waste service. The Town does not charge. The Town also receives the following extras as part of their contract with Republic: 1) free yard waste pick up all year; 2) free, unlimited, non-standard bulky item pickups; 3) free service at all Town owned properties and parks; 4) free post-"Trash & Treasure Day" pickup; 5) free pick up of 3 appliances per year, per home; 6) Clean Up Day: no charge for all labor (Republic employees and equipment - trucks and containers); 7) design, print, and mail "Residents Guide" to all households; 8) Republic Services bills and collects on all invoices. Currently Republic bills bi-monthly. They are considering going to quarterly billing.

MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2016

Questions asked and answers given include:

- How much would the cost go down without the yard waste included.
- Could there be a level of service for a fall pickup only when people rake their yards. Tom Chovan reported that the equipment is expensive and would not be economical to only use one or two months.
- The reason for take-all is to keep the streets clean.
- Can we use our own containers? Yes, Republic is getting away from requiring customers to use their containers.

Tom Chovan asked if the Utility Commission is comfortable with the contract. Groschen stated that he would like to see yard waste optional. Tom Chovan stated that he can come back with an a-la-cart program for yard waste or charge everyone less. He will prepare a proposal both ways. Groschen asked if the rate could be frozen for three years. Tom Chovan stated that would be hard to do because the tipping fee changes. For now, Republic will continue to do the billing and will keep the annual clean up. An estimate will be acquired for value in doing the billing.

ON-LINE UTILITY ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT: The Town is implementing an online utility billing application which will boost efficiency and improve customer services. Real time account data provides customers with instant access to accurate billing and account information. Utility customers will be able to pay bills by credit card or e-check. Last payment date, payment account and bill due date will be provided. The customer will be able to view real-time balances and view graphs detailing consumption history. This information will help influence water conservation.

NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting date is Thursday, September 8th. Agenda items will include Republic Services Contract – renewal discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary